In the Claims

1.   (Currently Amended) A consumer electronics device having media supervision enforcement circuitry for supervising personal exposure to user discernible information, comprising:

a first logic unit configured for generating viewer indicators indicative of viewers present in a viewing area;

non–volatile memory configured for receiving a plurality of viewing profiles for selected viewers, wherein the plurality of viewing profiles include content-based specifications and wherein one or more of the plurality of viewing profiles include two or more time range specifications and different content-based specifications corresponding to each of the two or more time range specifications;

a second logic unit coupled to the first logic unit and the non–volatile memory and being configured for comparing a viewer indicator with viewing profiles to identify an active viewing profile and a content–based indicator and a reference time with the active viewing profile, the second logic unit being further configured for generating a control signal in response to the comparison between the content–based indicator and the reference time with the active viewing profiles; and

a signal impairment mechanism coupled to the logic unit and configured for, based on the control signal, selectively passing a program signal there through without substantial impairment or passing the program signal there through with substantial impairment.

2.   (Original)   The consumer electronics device of claim 1 wherein each of the viewing profiles comprises a viewer specification and a content–based specification corresponding to the viewer specification;

3.   (Original)   The consumer electronics device of claim 2, further comprising an output device coupled to the signal impairment mechanism for transforming the program signal into the user discernible information.

4.   (Original)   The consumer electronics device of claim 1, further comprising a data entry system for selectively inputting the viewer and content–based specifications into the non–volatile memory for storage.

5.   (Original)   The consumer electronics device of claim 1, wherein the non–volatile memory includes a look–up list for storing a plurality of viewer specification and associated content–based specifications.

6. (Original) The consumer electronics device of claim 1, wherein the program signal carries the content–based indicator, and further comprising a data extraction device coupled to the logic unit for extracting the content–based indicator.

7. (Original) The consumer electronics device of claim 1, wherein the signal impairment device is a switch.

8. (Original) The consumer electronics device of claim 1, wherein the output device is a television system audio/video output device.

9. (Original) The consumer electronics device of claim 1, wherein the first logic unit is a computer configured to run facial recognition software.

10. (Original) The consumer electronics device of claim 1, further comprising a camera coupled to the first logic unit and configured to continuously scan the viewing area associated with the consumer electronic device.

11. (Original) The consumer electronics device of claim 1 wherein each of the viewing profiles comprises a viewer specification, a finite time range specification and a content–based specification corresponding to the viewer and time range specifications.

12. (Original) The consumer electronics device of claim 1, further comprising a data entry system for selectively inputting the viewer, time range and content–based specifications into the non–volatile memory for storage.

13. (Original) The consumer electronics device of claim 1, wherein the non–volatile memory includes a look–up list for storing a plurality of viewer specification and associated time range and content–based specifications.

14. (Original) The consumer electronics device of claim 1, wherein the program signal carries the content–based indicator and timing information, and further comprising a data extraction device coupled to the logic unit for extracting the content–based indicator and timing information.

15. (Currently Amended) A recordable medium comprising:

a computer program comprising ~~steps~~ a set of instructions for:

receiving a program signal suitable for conversion by a consumer electronics device into user discernible information;

receiving a content–based indicator indicative of the content of the user discernible information;

receiving a viewer indicator indicative of a viewer present in a viewer area;

selecting a viewer specification associated with the viewer indicator; the viewer specification including one or more content–based specifications associated with one or more time range specifications;

~~selecting a content–based specification associated with the selected viewer specification;~~

comparing ~~the selected~~ a reference time with the one or more time range specifications of of the selected viewer specification and a content–based specification associated with a time range specification of the one or more time ranges specifications that the reference time falls within with a received content–based indicator; and

generating a control signal based on the comparison between the selected content–based specification and the received content–based indicator.

16. (Currently Amended) The recordable medium of claim 15, wherein each of the received content–based indicator and the ~~selected~~ content–based specification is a rating.

17. (Original) The recordable medium of claim 16, wherein the control signal is generated if the received content–based rating exceeds the selected content–based rating.

18. (Original) The recordable medium of claim 15, wherein each of the received content–based indicators and the selected content–based specifications is a subject matter category.

19. (Original) The recordable medium of claim 18, wherein the control signal is generated if the received content–based category matches the selected content–based category.

20. (Original) The recordable medium of claim 15, wherein the control signal is generated to impair the program signal.

21. (Original) The recordable medium of claim 15, wherein the computer program further comprises the steps of

receiving timing information indicative of a reference time;

selecting a finite time range specification associated with the timing information;

selecting a content–based specification associated with the selected viewer and time range specifications.

22. (Currently Amended) A device ~~having~~ comprising:

a viewer monitoring system;

non–volatile memory configured for receiving <u>a plurality of</u> viewing profiles for selected viewers<u>, wherein the plurality of viewing profiles include time range specifications and different content-based specifications corresponding to each of the time range specifications</u>;

a logic unit coupled to the viewer monitoring system and the non–volatile memory and being configured for comparing a viewer indicator with viewing profiles to identify an active viewing profile and a content–based indicator <u>and a reference time</u> with the active viewing profile, the second logic unit being further configured for generating a control signal in response to the comparison between the content–based indicator and <u>the reference time with</u> the <u>active</u> viewing profiles; and

a signal impairment mechanism coupled to the logic unit and configured for, based on the control signal, selectively passing a program signal there through without substantial impairment or passing the program signal there through with substantial impairment.

23. (Currently) The device of claim 22 wherein the viewer monitoring system ~~comprising~~ <u>comprises</u> a facial recognition system.

24. (Original) The device of claim 23 wherein the facial recognition system comprises a computer configured to run a facial recognition program and a camera coupled to the computer.

25. (Original) The device of claim 22 wherein each of the viewing profiles comprises a viewer specification and a content–based specification corresponding to the viewer specification.

26. (Original) The device of claim 22, further comprising an output device coupled to the signal impairment mechanism for transforming the program signal into the user discernible information.

27. (Original) The device of claim 22, further comprising a data entry system for selectively inputting the viewer and content–based specifications into the non–volatile memory for storage.

28. (Original) The device of claim 22, wherein the non–volatile memory includes a look–up list for storing a plurality of viewer specifications and associated content–based specifications.

29. (Original) The consumer electronics device of claim 22, wherein the program signal carries the content–based indicator, and further comprising a data extraction device coupled to the logic unit for extracting the content–based indicator.

30.   (Original)   The consumer electronics device of claim 22, wherein the signal impairment device is a switch.

31.   (Original)   The consumer electronics device of claim 22, wherein the output device is a television system audio/video output device.

32.   (Original)   The consumer electronics device of claim 22 wherein each of the viewing profiles comprises a viewer specification, a finite time range specification and a content–based specification corresponding to the viewer and time range specifications.

33.   (Original)   The consumer electronics device of claim 22, further comprising a data entry system for selectively inputting the viewer, time range and content–based specifications into the non–volatile memory for storage.

34.   (Original)   The consumer electronics device of claim 22, wherein the non–volatile memory includes a look–up list for storing a plurality of viewer specifications and associated time range and content–based specifications.

35.   (Original)   The consumer electronics device of claim 23, wherein the program signal carries the content–based indicator and timing information, and further comprising a data extraction device coupled to the logic unit for extracting the content–based indicator and timing information.